

squarely behind us, once and for all, and doing that means we should extinguish the legal authority that initiated the war to begin with.

So thank you. Thank you, Chairman MENENDEZ, and thank you, Ranking Member RISCH, for moving forward with this repeal in your committee. And, again, kudos and accolades to Senators KAINE and YOUNG for their great work too. We haven't yet passed this, but their work gives us a real chance to see some light finally at the end of a long tunnel. It is my hope that we can bring this bill to the floor during this work period.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

Now, later today, I will join a number of Senate Democratic colleagues to talk about a new report that throws a spotlight on the dangerous ways the Republican budget proposals would harm average Americans.

As has been the case so many times this year, this report tells a story of contrasts. On the one hand, Democrats and President Biden have spent the last 2 years reducing the Federal deficit, lowering drug costs, lowering people's energy bills, and making sure the wealthiest pay their fair share.

But here are just a few of the things the Republican budget proposals would do. Listen to this. The American people ain't going to like it.

Republican proposals would push millions of Americans off Social Security benefits and raise the retirement age to 70.

Republican proposals would privatize Medicare, which would gut seniors' benefits, threatening their access to guaranteed services, and force those who are able to remain on Medicare to pay higher premiums.

Republican proposals would cut Medicaid by \$2.2 trillion and end coverage for tens of millions of Americans, especially people with disabilities, seniors, and families living on lower incomes. A large part of Medicaid goes to help people who are in nursing homes and assisted living, and that takes a huge burden off 30-, 40-, 50-year-olds who want to care for their parents but those high costs are something beyond their budgets.

And Republican proposals would narrow healthcare eligibility for veterans and cut VA mandatory funding—and so much more, so much more.

These proposals are anathema, I believe, to the American people, for sure, but even to most Republicans. That is why we Democrats keep insisting that Speaker MCCARTHY answer the one question we have all been asking and gotten no answer to. The question we have been asking Speaker MCCARTHY is: Where is your plan?

We believe a plan this drastic will not get the votes in the Republican conference in the House. So, Speaker MCCARTHY, show us your plan. Speaker MCCARTHY, show us your plan.

Republicans love to tout themselves as the party of the average Americans, but actions speak louder than words.

When Republicans help tax cheats; call for putting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid on the chopping block; and cut taxes for billionaires and megacorporations, there is no question where they truly stand with the wealthy, with the very well-connected, and with the biggest of corporations.

NOMINATION OF PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON

Finally, I want to make a quick mention of an important nominee who is testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee.

Recently, President Biden announced Phil Washington as his nominee to lead the FAA, or Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA needs to have a leader as soon as possible. Americans cannot afford to go through another busy travel season like the one they went through last winter. When you have widespread computer failures, delays, and an inability to react quickly, not having an FAA head is terrible.

I look forward to seeing more in the coming weeks, but I thank my colleagues in the Commerce Committee, led by the very capable, very diligent, very hard-working MARIA CANTWELL, for holding their hearing today on Mr. Washington.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in his State of the Union Address last month, the President expressed an encouraging desire for bipartisanship. But I said, at the time, that I hoped his words would be matched by his actions. After all, the President spoke about being a President for all Americans in his inaugural address. But his first 2 years in office were not exactly distinguished by bipartisanship.

So while I was encouraged by the President's words in his State of the Union Address, as I said, I am looking for them to be matched by his actions, and renominating a slew of extreme nominees, as the President has done so far this year, is no way to start.

So far this year, the President has renominated at least 16 individuals who were unable to get any bipartisan support in the last Congress. They include an individual with serious unanswered questions about his possible role in a movement to push out senior career officials at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in favor of Biden loyalists, multiple individuals aligned with Democrats' radical Green New Deal agenda, a nominee who has repeatedly embraced anti-police rhetoric, multiple abortion extremists, a leftist litigator who has called the U.S. Senate and the electoral college anti-democratic insti-

tutions and who has admitted that he is motivated by his hatred of conservatives, and the list goes on.

And then, of course, there is the nominee who recently appeared in front of the Senate Commerce Committee for the third time: Gigi Sohn. This is Ms. Sohn's third nomination to the Federal Communications Commission during the Biden administration. Her previous two nominations stalled thanks to her inability to garner any bipartisan support, and with good reason, because Gigi Sohn has to be the poster child for terrible Presidential nominees, although I suppose the Biden judicial nominee who couldn't explain article II of the Constitution should also be in the running for that title of worst Presidential nominee.

I have serious policy disagreements with Ms. Sohn on multiple issues. She not only wants to bring back the heavy-handed internet regulation of the Obama administration, but she wants to go further and have the FCC regulate broadband rates and set data caps. This would discourage broadband investment and threaten U.S. leadership in 5G, as well as diminish internet access opportunities for Americans outside of major urban and suburban areas.

As a resident of a rural State, I also have serious concerns about Ms. Sohn's position on rural broadband. She has been publicly hostile to the efforts of rural broadband companies to expand reliable internet access to rural areas, while at the same time she supported the use of scarce government dollars to overbuild networks in already well-served areas.

Her hostility to rural broadband led one former Democrat Senator to ask how Democrats can "support rural broadband expansion and also support Gigi Sohn."

But my concerns with Ms. Sohn don't end there. I not only have serious policy disagreements with Ms. Sohn. I have serious questions about her character and fitness for the office for which she is nominated.

The Federal Communications Commission has jurisdiction over radio, TV, and the internet, which means that it deals with a number of sensitive issues—notably, free speech issues. And, for that reason, it calls for Commissioners who are thoughtful, fair, and impartial.

Ms. Sohn is none of these. She is a virulent and unapologetic partisan known for speaking disparagingly of conservative media outlets—the same outlets, I would add, that she would be regulating—and the politicians who disagree with her.

Her nomination is opposed by a wide range of organizations, including the left-of-center Progressive Policy Institute, which opposes her due to a "pattern of illiberal intolerance for voices on the left who dissent from her hard left orthodoxies."

Ms. Sohn is the very opposite of fair and impartial, and I can think of few